Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A protective instrument cover, comprising:

a front portion that extends over substantially an entire front surface of a stringed instrument body and is between (a) the stringed instrument body and (b) a string of the stringed instrument body; and

means for attaching the front portion to the front surface of the stringed instrument body without requiring removal of hardware of the stringed instrument body.

- 2. (Currently Amended) The protective instrument cover of claim 1, wherein at least part of the cover comprises stretchable <u>synthetic</u> material.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The protective instrument cover of claim 2, wherein the stretchable synthetic material comprises neoprene.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The protective instrument cover of claim 2, wherein the stretchable synthetic material comprises spandex.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The protective instrument cover of claim 2, wherein the stretchable synthetic material comprises latex.
 - 6. (Canceled)
- 7. (Previously Presented) The protective instrument cover of claim 1, wherein the stringed instrument is a guitar.
- 8. (Original) The protective instrument cover of claim 1, wherein the means for attaching comprises at least one zipper.
 - 9. (Canceled)
 - 10. (Currently Amended) A protective instrument cover, comprising:

a front portion that extends over substantially an entire front surface of a stringed instrument body and is between (a) the stringed instrument body and (b) a string of the stringed instrument body; and

a fastener that attaches the front portion of the cover to the front surface of the stringed instrument body,

wherein at least part of the cover comprises stretchable synthetic material.

- 11. (Currently Amended) The protective instrument cover of claim 10, wherein the stretchable <u>synthetic</u> material comprises neoprene.
- 12. (Currently Amended) The protective instrument cover of claim 10, wherein the stretchable <u>synthetic</u> material comprises spandex.
- 13. (Currently Amended) The protective instrument cover of claim 10, wherein the stretchable <u>synthetic</u> material comprises latex.
 - 14. (Canceled)
- 15. (Previously Presented) The protective instrument cover of claim 10, wherein the stringed instrument is a guitar.
- 16. (Original) The protective instrument cover of claim 10, wherein the fastener comprises at least one zipper.
 - 17. (Canceled)
 - 18. (Currently Amended) A protective instrument cover, comprising:
- a front portion that extends over substantially an entire front surface of an instrument;
- a back portion that covers at least part of a back surface of the instrument body;
 - a side portion connecting the front portion and the back portion; and

means for attaching the front portion, back portion and side portion to the instrument body without requiring removal of hardware of the instrument body;

wherein at least one of the front portion, the back portion or the side portion comprises stretchable synthetic material; and

wherein the means for attaching is functionally independent of a stretching action of the stretchable synthetic material.

19. (Canceled)